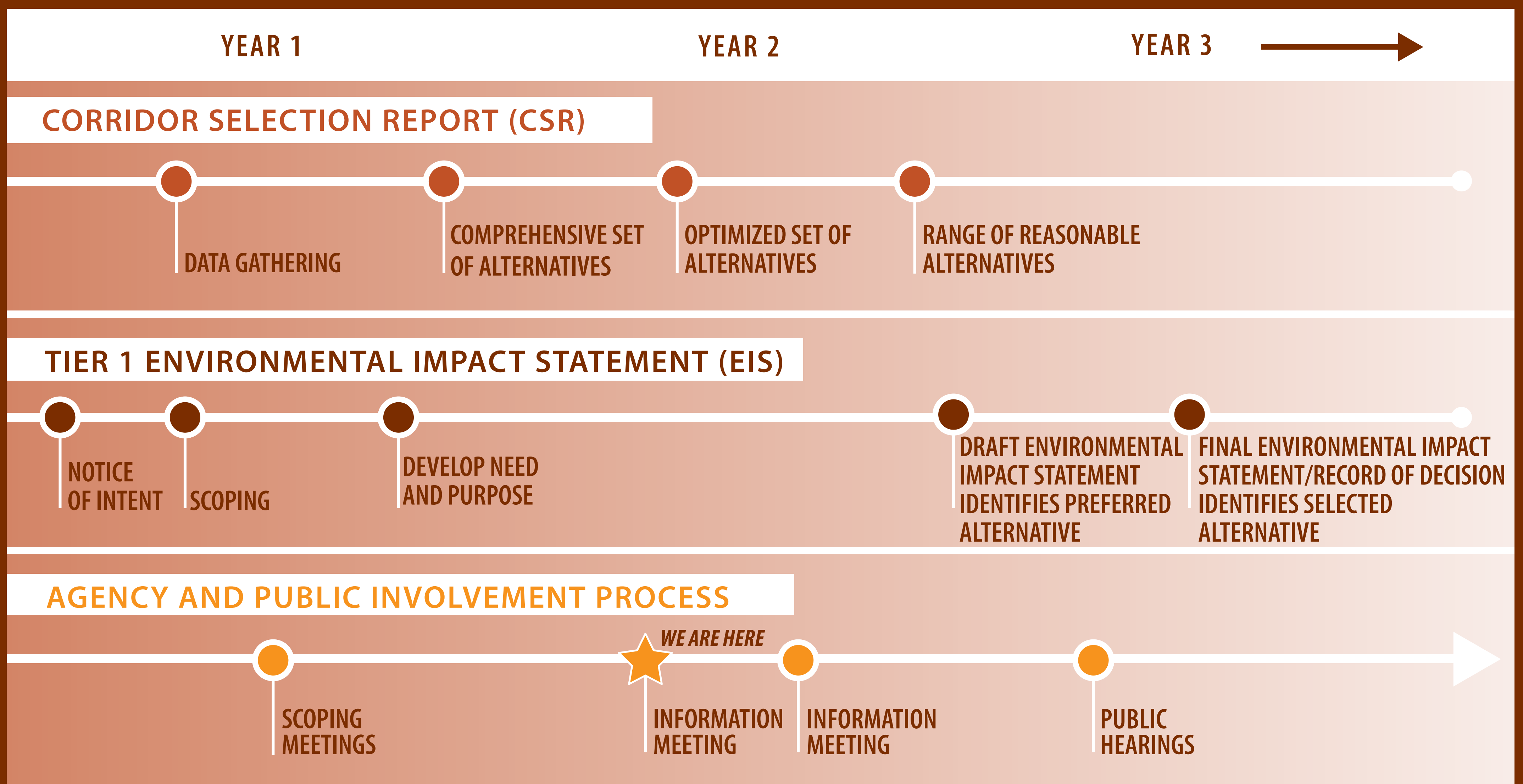


WHAT IS A TIER 1 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT?

A Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is a decision-making document that enables federal agencies to identify constraints and opportunities on proposed projects through technical analysis and outreach to agencies and the public.

In a tiered environmental process, a Tier 1 EIS considers broad corridors and issues that set the stage for future Tier 2 Environmental studies that evaluate specific transportation alignments.



With agency and public input, a corridor selection study progressively narrows the potential corridors from an original “Comprehensive Set” of possibilities to a range of reasonable build alternatives that moves into the Tier 1 EIS along with a “no-build” alternative. In the final Tier 1 EIS the Federal Highway Administration, as the lead federal agency, makes a decision on the selected alternative. If a build alternative is selected, it allows local jurisdictions to incorporate the selected corridor into local plans and the project is eligible for federal funding opportunities. The process sets the stage for future Tier 2 environmental studies that look at project-level analysis with a specific alignment and mitigation plan for identified impacts.